

# THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The 1948 conference of the Michigan Library Association in contrast to the conferences of the two preceding years with their vacation atmosphere, was planned as a city meeting with the idea that the location would attract a larger share of the membership. It was hoped that with a period provided for shopping and other city diversions the vital affairs of the Association would claim the attention and active participation of all the members in attendance. Only by the unified efforts of all could the business of the Association be conducted with mutual advantage.

There is often little realization of the effort involved in consideration of the problems and in conducting the business affairs of a state association until the responsibility becomes a personal one. Not all new presidents have had the advantage of serving on the Executive Board under two able predecessors as has the incoming president. Lest expectations of superior performance as a result be too high, I take this opportunity to warn the membership that two years of preparation are none too many for this incumbent to learn the increasingly complicated problems with which the President and the Executive Board are faced. The last administration was marked by its calmness and wisdom in the face of serious legislative problems that gave warning of continued difficulty of state-wide concern. But no sense of defeat was evident, only acceptance of the challenge with careful planning for a more intensive campaign.



The reaction of the legislators last year was evidence of an appalling lack of information ordinarily gained by first hand experience with library service. As was pointed out in the "President's Page" of the October, 1947 MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN, public relations of local libraries of every type, school, county and city public, college and university must be of such quality as to leave no doubt in the legislator's mind of the value of books as means of communication and the need to support more adequately the distributing agencies.

In every library lies the power to awaken the community to the potentialities of superior library service. As a department of local government the public library must shed a traditional isolationism and become an actively integrated part of the cultural life of the community. The most effective Legislative Committee is defeated at the start if negative library service at home, at school and at college is the foundation for the impression prevalent in the legislature. The Association plans to provide generously for this Committee both financial and professional support to assure success in the 1949 legislature. An entirely new state aid program is being promulgated at this time in preparation for the next session and it will be the responsibility of every individual librarian to be well informed whether the state aid program affects that library or not.

Another responsibility of each member is that of being well enough informed on the professional advantages, the requirements and the training agencies to answer questions of those interested in librarianship as a career and by personal example to attract the many promising candidates to be found in our schools and colleges. Libraries which can provide some means of introducing to groups the various facets of librarianship should cooperate with schools in their vocational programs in much the same way as do hospitals and other institutions attempting to build up a professional back-log of recruits. Teas with book discussions, a trip on the book-mobile, or a day of observation in one or several departments may serve to provide the very inspiration needed to throw the weight of balance of indecision between two careers in favor of the one in which the opportunities present such a challenge. Few of us would relinquish the advantages of our chosen profession; let us be articulate not only in singing its praises but in dramatizing them.

Alice Louise Le Fevre

# RECRUITING AT THE GRASS ROOT HAIRS

By

Richard James Hurley, Asst. Professor of  
Library Science  
University of Michigan

When Archibald MacLeish was Librarian of Congress, he one day interrupted a conference to point out that we should not speak of grass roots but rather "root hairs". Perhaps it was the poet in him that prompted this. The point he was making to the librarians assembled, was that we need to get down to the most basic facts in our profession. In the ever vital matter of recruiting we have witnessed many efforts to get down to the roots. Library schools have been urged to take the lead in publicizing the profession, in liberalizing entrance requirements, in competing with other professions by placing the work on an undergraduate level. Library organizations have been geared to sporadic recruiting drives. Directors of large libraries have been considered the key people in these efforts. In the final analysis all professional librarians are involved. But in spite of everything we might as well recognize that the lack of recruits to our profession has caused a crisis. It is time and past the time to get down to "root hairs".

We should ask ourselves "From whence do librarians come?" My personal answer based on ten years of training librarians and on the observations of my colleagues, is that they usually find a job experience so rewarding that they decide to become librarians. Somewhere along the line of career sampling, the person discovers from actual experience that bringing books and people together is worth the devotion of a lifetime. The only objective study of this subject which I have seen, is Fargo's *Preparation for School Library Work*. Her conclusions were that high school librarians were recruited from teachers-in-service, from liberal arts colleges, librarians-in-service and teacher-training institutions. Experience shows that many school librarians come from the ranks of English teachers. But this again is not the true answer to our problem.

The "root hairs" of our recruiting are in the high school, and this includes the junior high



school. The study of occupations is customarily placed in the 8th or 9th grade. Career Days and the like are part of the high school scene. The library profession is sometimes overlooked in such discussions or presented in a poor light. The concept of librarianship as something genteel for nice old ladies is still with us and Hollywood and recent novels have not helped us change things. Oddly enough children do not look upon librarians as sympathetic human beings but as clerks who "run" a library or "look after" books. The first effort in publicizing librarianship is to have plenty of first-rate school librarians who will sell the profession by the force of their personality. In such a manner will all children be contacted and at least a favorable climate of opinion developed. This must be backed up by recruiting folders, talks, films such as "The Librarian", and novels as *Marian-Martha*, *Bright Heritage* and others.

This is simply a beginning. A fertile ground for future librarians is the student library squad for here the youngster comes into direct contact with professional activities. The wise librarian varies the schedule of duties to prevent monotony and to round out the knowledge of the assistant. A bit of cataloging and classification may even be included among the activities of carding books, sending overdue notices, reading shelves, bulletin board work, binding and repair and the like. Some library squads visit other libraries, binderies, publishing houses and bookstores. Book Week is an opportunity to display all types of talent. Fun is added to hard work by social occasions, a Hallowe'en party, St. Patrick's Day dance or beach picnic. The fact that 90% of high schools have such student squads indicates the importance of them in the library scene. They are doubly important in recruiting. Here is

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an opportunity to experience librarianship while law, medicine, engineering and other professions are so much theory. Here is a chance to present our work as pleasant and constructive. Looking back over the many squads I had as a school librarian, of the hundred or so youngsters in them only three have become librarians. But I made no special efforts to interest them in my profession. Today we must make every effort to bring our ranks up to full strength.

We still need to dig deeper. Many student squads are mediocre with the superior members lost in the crowd. It is exactly these better-than-average individuals which we need—and usually which we lose. In New Jersey and Maryland efforts have been made to contact such youngsters by state-wide student library assistant conferences. Turning to the local scene, why cannot we arrange some program for such students in connection with our regional meetings? We can easily visualize twenty or thirty high school people selected to represent as many library squads, meeting with their own program. The agenda would include a library film such as IT'S ALL

YOURS, a demonstration of some phase of library work as bookbinding, a library play or skit, a talk by an author or illustrator or other "interesting" person, a luncheon and a close inspection of the host library which might be followed by an open discussion of its good and poor qualities. The participants would report the meeting to their respective squads, taking back ideas for activities, for improvement, for the esprit de corps necessary to good work. The selection of representatives would be carefully made and considered an honor.

In this work of contacting young people, childrens' librarians play a most important role. Their personnel work develops a desirable attitude towards the library. Some public libraries during the war depended upon high school students but it is my feeling that little was done to attract them to the profession. While stress has been laid on the place of the school librarian, the results of this work profits all fields of library specialization. Hundreds of potential librarians entered Michigan schools in September. What are we going to do about it?

## Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia

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# NOW... AND TOMORROW?

by Donald W. Kohlstedt, Librarian  
Grand Rapids Public Library\*

For the first time in many years Grand Rapids residents could see the Ryerson Building as its donor visualized it, with highlights sparkling and its shadows luminous. The grime and soot of almost five decades had been washed away. To the right rear, as one approached the building, an imposing tower gleamed in the sunlight while to the left, on Bostwick Street, an impressive auditorium had been erected. A one way drive to the east of the building led to a ramp under the tower unit where underground delivery of mail and packages facilitated handling in the shipping room at the base of the elevator. Traffic turned left at this point through a parking lot in the basement of the auditorium, operated by the Municipal Parking Authority, and entered a second ramp leading up to Bostwick Street.

At the curb, on Library Street, is a deposit chute for books being returned by car day, night or Sunday which obviates the inconvenience caused by not remembering exact library hours. On approaching the main entrance to the Ryerson Building electric eyes automatically open the door and count the patrons, the same process being reversed on leaving which gives a positive check on entrants and exits during each day. The spacious, air conditioned main lobby is cleared of bulky card catalog units and one finds instead comfortable chairs and tables, display racks for new books, an information desk and a return and loan desk served by tubes and an endless conveyor belt from all stack levels. Books may be requested by author, title or subject and slips are routed through tubes by the loan desk attendant. If the patron prefers to use the catalog, however, an escalator on the right side of the lobby gives direct access to the complete catalog of all library holdings.

To the right of the lobby, the partition between the former Browsing and Fiction rooms had been removed. The enlarged room was

equipped with a univent system of air conditioning so that smoking was permitted. This spacious department housed several thousand currently popular books in constant demand. To the left, a similar room with muralized walls and ceilings cared for the pre-school and grade school book needs of Grand Rapids as well as a parents' section.

In the reference room, on the second floor, one corner table was devoted to new type scanning devices and reading machines. Instead of books the corner shelving had given way to catalog cases in which students and research workers found a wealth of material on micro-cards. The cards were identical in size to standard catalog cards but contained, in addition to the usual catalog entry, the complete text of the material desired in greatly reduced micro print. One card reproduces 64 pages of text and aside from the ease in handling, the cost is approximately one sixth as great as acquiring the same material in book form. Either a hand scrutinizer or a table model reader brought the micro print back to easy legibility and a research worker could borrow vital library material in a small envelope instead of having to carry an arm load of heavy books.

Across the upper lobby all Michigan, United States and world history were combined as one great source collection of historical import. Microfilm copies of newspapers, historical reports and series of documents were available for research purposes and a photostat of any desired information could be made for a patron in a few minutes time on one of the reading machines.

Direct access to the auditorium was gained through the former office of the librarian, or it could be used as an autonomous unit from the main entrance on Bostwick Street. Here the Civic Theatre and Childrens Theatre offered the best of entertainment to Grand Rapids citizens and the library sponsored film forums, book reviews, panel discussions on current problems and played host to civic groups.

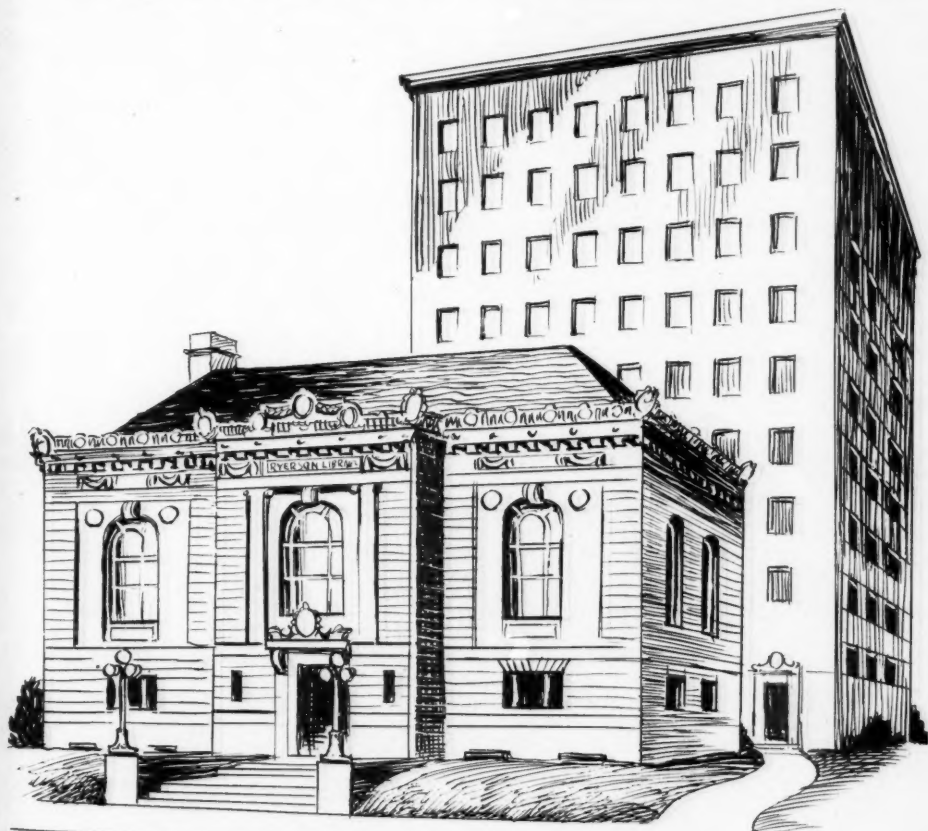
Above the auditorium was a music de-

\* Excerpt from Mr. Kohlstedt's annual report to the Board of Library Commissioners.

partment. A small, sound proof listening room was available to those wishing to enjoy good music and regular programs were scheduled. Since the "Stop the Music" program was still on the air and patrons still besieged the music librarian for the correct answer a Select-o-matic machine with a series of earphones was added to the equipment of the room. Patrons could then select by the turn of a dial, any one or more of two hundred recordings and decide for themselves without disturbing others in the room. Turntables with earphones were also available for individual use. Wire recorders, voice mirrors and television were standard equipment.

The twelve floor tower unit was the pride and joy of the Grand Rapids Public Library. Rather than a great architectural monument the building was a sensible workshop. Its layout and construction was based on a single

"module" size, between uniformly spaced columns and a uniform ceiling height of ten feet in order to best accommodate a full range of typical library functions. Columns throughout the structure served as anchors for either movable wall partitions or free standing bookstacks, both of which were interchangeable, with ducts, telephone and electric raceways through the columns into each level in a set pattern. The result was a library interior which could be divided into a large number of informal reading centers arranged at will. Each functional division of the library could be properly given its own specially designed quarters yet adapted or changed to meet ever changing needs as the years progressed. The library was no longer a store house of books but had become a flexible center where new methods, new ideas and new responsibilities to the community could be readily incorporated



into its program. Air conditioned throughout, with sound absorbing walls, acoustical ceilings and resilient flooring, any level could be reached quickly by elevator.

The only deviation from the complete flexibility from ground floor to roof was the second level plan which included autonomous control. This level housed the Business and Technology Department and had direct access to an outside door. Although the floor plan itself was identical this level could be used after the rest of the building was closed.

General offices; the processing department; a complete audio-visual center including a radio room to permit the broadcast of library programs direct from the building over a local station; a young peoples room; fiction room; social science, medical, genealogical, fine arts and rare book sections, as well as a floor for special displays would all find adequate housing with room for the future.

With the central building as the keystone of our library service the branch libraries and bookmobiles become increasingly important as the city continues to grow through new housing developments and annexation. Instead of large, dormant collections the seven regional branch libraries were provided with ready reference materials for the less complex research of the average individual needing a question answered. The bookmobiles as well as the branches had direct access to the entire central collection, when needed, via

short wave radio for questions which could be readily answered by a reference assistant. The branch equipment included teletypewriters for longer messages which required copying.

Both physically and spiritually the Grand Rapids Public Library could become the outstanding landmark of this city's cultural achievement. Every library service herein alluded to merely incorporates already perfected devices in common usage and serves to indicate a few potential applications of business methods to a business which serves every person in this community.

#### Our Cornerstone is Laid

Year after year greater library awareness and appreciation are developing in the city of Grand Rapids. Greater interest in library sponsored programs, increased requests for specialized services and demands for branch facilities as well as new bookmobile stops have taxed to the limit our current resources. Every new endeavor and each book acquired emphasize again our urgent need for more room to carry on. Every available space at Ryerson is crowded to capacity and most rooms are doing double duty. The library and its pressing needs is a most worthwhile subject for consideration on the part of any generously disposed citizen who may wish to aid a worthy public service and create a truly living memorial.

## A. L. A. REGIONAL CONFERENCE - 1949

Plans are made for regional meetings of the  
American Library Association  
to substitute for the annual meeting of 1949.

Region III Midwest, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, is scheduled to meet September 15-25. Detroit has been tentatively chosen as the meeting place.

Further announcements will be made later.



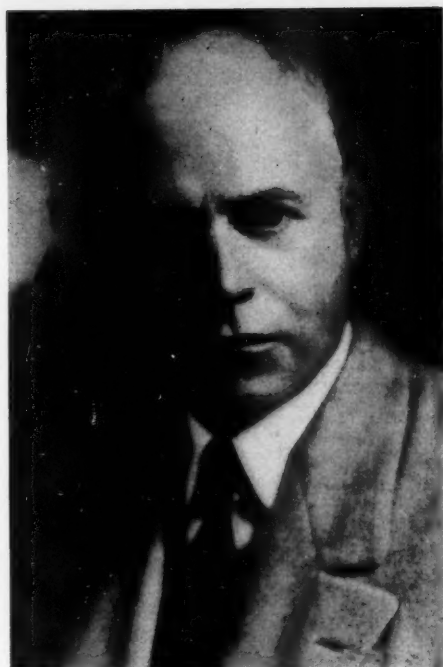
## MR. HEWITT RETIRES IN MUSKEGON

When, on June 30, 1948, C. Tefft Hewitt retired as Director of the Hackley Public Library in Muskegon, he completed a career of more than forty years of work with books and libraries. Highlights of his career include eight months as manager of the rare book department of John Wanamaker and Sons in Philadelphia, head of the publication department of Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company for two years, head of the order department of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh for 20 years, and director of the Hackley Library for another 20 years.

His outstanding contributions to the library in Muskegon were his extensive knowledge of books, both rare and otherwise, and his interest in all modern developments in library service. As a result, the Hackley Library boasts a book collection of more than 180,000 volumes which is outstanding, both qualitatively and quantitatively, especially for a city the size of Muskegon, and which is particularly strong in the field of photography. Mechanical charging methods, and extensive use of microfilm have been the accepted thing at Hackley Library for many years under Mr. Hewitt's direction, together with service to business and industry, schools, hospitals, and the like.

Outside the library, Mr. Hewitt has been an enthusiastic amateur photographer, and is one of the founders of the Muskegon Camera Club. Also a radio enthusiast, he served as lecturer on that subject at Carnegie Institute of Technology during World War I. He has been a member of Rotary, and for many years served as secretary of that organization. Professionally, he has been a member of A.L.A. and M.L.A., serving as president of the latter organization in 1934.

He succeeded Harold L. Wheeler as librarian of the Hackley Library upon the death of the former in 1928, and carried on successfully many of the services inaugurated by Mr. Wheeler, particularly service to schools. During the years of the depression, when income was drastically curtailed, Mr. Hewitt, by careful management, kept up the efficiency



of the library and the quality of the book stock, even though certain services had to be eliminated, and since that time has seen that these services were restored as rapidly as possible.

Since his retirement, Mr. Hewitt has continued to live at his home in Roodmont, outside Muskegon, and is following his hobbies, as well as spending much time with his children and grandchildren.

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Executive Committee of M.L.A. has appointed Mrs. Howard Haight (formerly Miss Melba Pearson) as executive secretary of the Association. She will work on a regular salary and will give approximately one-fourth time (ten hours per week) to the work of the Association. She will relieve the President in part by serving as liaison officer and coordinator for all Committees. Very shortly she will take over part of the work formerly performed by the Treasurer, e.g. she will handle all membership records.

Future correspondence relating to the work of all committees should be directed to: Mrs. Howard M. Haight, 604 North Kalamazoo St., Paw Paw, Mich.

## STATE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FOR LIBRARIES

With National Plans completed for the development of superior library service throughout the United States, the Committee on Implementation of the National Plans (CINP) of the American Library Association is promoting the formation of State Planning and Implementation Committees (SPIC) in every state. National Committee Chairman Edward A. Chapman, explaining the functions of CINP, stated that the increase and improvement of all types of libraries and library services nationwide depends upon active State Planning and Implementation Committees in every state. In this way, implementation of federal, state and local library plans will be on the basis of a coordinated national movement.

The basic characteristics of the SPIC are representation of the interests of all types of libraries at the same time, and further the inclusion of all outside representation that can conceivably contribute to or affect library planning and plan execution. The effectiveness of these State committees is directly proportional to the extent of citizen participation secured.

Specialists in community organization suggest that such groups as the SPIC should be given citizen leadership, with librarians in the role of consultants. The librarian is responsible for supplying information on current library operations, leaving the development of library service concepts to the citizen members of the Committee. They represent the consumers of library service who logically should have the last word as to what services the library should furnish.

The number of members on the SPIC cannot be too many so long as each represents an element necessary to library planning and plan execution. Generally indicated the membership of the State Committee will include citizen leadership of an overall character. As one used to getting things done and judging the practicality of operations, a leader in the business world is highly qualified for committee leadership.

Since participation in educational activities and the spreading of information are the library's most important functions, another segment of SPIC membership is representation

of all children, young people and adult educational interests, and representation of all other purposeful state-wide organizations with educational objectives in the broadest sense. The Committee also should include experts in rural and urban sociology, in educational research, law, taxation, legislation and importantly in publicity and public relations. Such specialists are responsible for indicating community interests and needs, sources of appropriation for increased library service and how obtained, and for seeing that the work of the State Committee and local library findings receive widespread publicity. The fourth segment of SPIC membership is the librarian-consultants assisting, but not dictating, the development of service concepts by the Committee, largely consisting of library-consumer representation by which librarians are guided.

In order to assume state leadership and successfully guide local action, the following elements of SPIC operation are fundamental: (1) preparation of a directory of all state organizations and offices with local outlying units; (2) the studying of the objectives and operations of these organizations and offices for developing specific programs of library participation in the work of their local units; (3) the surveying of library service statewide to determine how weakly or strongly the educational service function is being discharged by all libraries; (4) the setting up of a system of continuous communication with community leaders and librarians, statewide; (5) the maintenance of a continuous statewide publicity program reporting the work of SPIC and significant local library service findings and developments with particular attention to the news value of poor service findings; and (6) the organization of citizens on a statewide basis.

These six elements make up what may be termed the "ferment" phase of Committee operations. Concurrently the second and final phase matters of revision or enactment of library laws, determination of kind and amount of state support, the sources and extent of local library income, and the planning of legislative action, can be under continuous study by the appropriate members of SPIC.

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# THE PUBLIC MEETS THE CATALOGUE

Michele Wilson, Niagara Falls Public Library

With the training that high school and university students are receiving in the use of the catalogue the time is not far distant when the cataloguer need no longer bemoan the fact that the public do not use the catalogue. There is still, however, a large public who were born too soon to benefit by this instruction. For them the catalogue is not the magic key to the library's book collection, but a fearful invention to be consulted as a last resource. How then can we best introduce this public to the catalogue?

First of all let me remark that I have in mind the problems of the small and medium sized public libraries where the staffs are small. In these libraries the cataloguer often does reference and circulation work as well so that she is acquainted with the difficulties that the public encounter in using the catalogue. She finds a popular misconception in the minds of patrons in a small library, where relations are less impersonal, that the librarian must consult the catalogue herself when asked for a book. It is a temptation when she knows the book stock thoroughly to go directly to the shelf and produce the book needed, but in so doing she makes the borrower dependent on her rather than teaching him self-help.

Consulting the catalogue affords the librarian an excellent opportunity of giving a practical demonstration in how to use the catalogue. She can explain, too, how the subject cards bring all the material on a subject together which may be scattered on the shelves. In addition the catalogue has the advantage of giving a complete list of the books the library has, whereas the open shelves show only those books which are in at the moment. Once having the call slip filled in for the book the borrower needs, it is perfectly easy for him to leave a reserve should the book be out.

The best introduction to the catalogue is indisputably the personal one given by the librarian, but printed signs also help the uninitiated to find their way through the catalogue. Signs to be posted above the catalogue explaining its use may be obtained from library supply companies. Another useful guide, which is easily made, is a mounted catalogue card with explanations of the information given on the card. In a library using Library

of Congress cards with their detailed information such explanatory notes are invaluable. Even in a small library using simplified cataloguing it is easy for the public to confuse the copyright date or the number of pages with the call number.

Handbooks describing the use of the catalogue such as the one put out by the H. W. Wilson Company and prepared by the Junior Members Round Table of the American Library Association "So This is the Catalogue" may be made available to the public to be effective as is shown in the example I have quoted. Leaflets explaining the use of the library for new borrowers might include a paragraph or so on the catalogue. A very good example of this type of leaflet is the one prepared by the Sudbury Public Library. Booklists may also serve as an introduction to the catalogue by including a note to the effect that the complete list of books on the subject will be found in the catalogue under the subject headings noted.

After directing the public's attention to the catalogue the next question is whether they will be able to use it readily or whether they are going to encounter difficulty and become discouraged? Will they understand the filing and the "see" and "see also" cards? Once having found the information will they then be able to go to the shelves and locate the books?

Our filing rules seem frequently to be a stumbling block to the patron. The most commonly used filing system in Ontario separates the subjects and their subdivisions into three separate alphabetical units. We file first the subject heading and its subdivisions, then by inverted headings. This arrangement is convenient for the cataloguer but all too frequently a snare to the public. Why not disregard the dash and the comma and file all subheads of a subject in one alphabetical unit? In a small library this will be an advantage not only to the public but also to the librarian who must depend on pages or clerical help to do the preliminary filing.

The physical make-up of the catalogue can be improved by the use of numerous guide cards. A poorly guided catalogue has been

compared to a book without a table of contents or index. Each important subject and author should be brought out by a guide card with long subjects, which are much subdivided, well guided as well. I should like to suggest a logical arrangement of guide cards with authors on the left of the drawer and subject guide cards in the center and to the right. This makes the patron immediately aware of these two approaches to the catalogue when he examines a drawer.

The difficulty that patrons have in following up references on "see" and "see also" cards would indicate that our information on these cards is too brief. Why not make notes explaining the reference more fully? For example, a reference card might read thus:

Porcelain

Books on this subject are listed in the catalogue under the heading POTTERY.

In addition we need never be economical about making see cards for the borrower cannot be expected to translate his needs into the language used in the catalogue. If he fails to find a card under the word which he has in mind he will assume that the library does not have material on that subject. It will seldom occur to him to look under a similar heading. We might also use notes referring people from the broad subject headings to the shelves as in the case of poetry and drama where subject cards for the works of individual authors are not made.

Clues as to the location of books in the library should be given on the catalogue card for the convenience of both the librarian and the patron. Books that are in the reference collection, local history collection, young people's room or stack room will be more readily found if the card gives this information. Turning from the catalogue to the shelves the public is often at a loss to find the books wanted. Outlines posted on the ends of the book-cases interpreting the Dewey numbers and indicating the contents of the shelves are essential. The shelves should be well labeled, not only to help the borrowers

NOTICE:—November 1 will be the deadline for the December issue. It is important that names of newly appointed Chairmen of Committees and Sections be sent in for our Who's Who. Please send December items for "Behind the Stacks" to the editor.

THE EDITOR

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who consult the catalogue, but also those who prefer to browse. The same headings as used in the catalogue should be kept, for the non-catalogue user may be looking for cook books but the person who has just come from the catalogue will have cookery in mind.

This leads us to a consideration of current practices in cataloguing in relation to the public. Do we add new subject headings as the need arises or are we slow about it, preferring to keep on using old headings and stretching them to the limit of their capacity? For example, a book on employment might better be given that subject rather than the over-worked "Labor and laboring classes" where it will not naturally occur to the public to look and where it will be lost in a mass of cards with the same heading.

As for the question to use or not to use the pseudonym as author entry it is simpler for the public if the catalogue entry is the same as the name appearing on the title-page, even if this means separating works by the same author both on the shelves and in the catalogue. Since there are infinitely more people who do not use the catalogue than those who do the chances are that the public will be better satisfied to find the name with which they are familiar. In the case of a writer using a pseudonym for fiction and his real name for non-fiction a reference may lead from the fiction works entered under the pseudonym to the non-fiction works by the same author entered under the real name.

To sum up then, signs and handbooks help to make the borrowers realize the full value of the catalogue. Straight alphabetical filing, numerous guide cards and a more generous use of notes make the catalogue easier to use. Clues as to the location of the books and shelves that are well labelled assist the patrons in finding their books. But the best that can be given is the personal attention of the librarian, particularly one who has experience in cataloguing, for she will know fully the intricacies of the catalogue and will benefit from observing the struggles of the public.

## BAY CITY

**MEN, MINDS AND MORALS:** Man has a moral obligation to be intelligent. This past year has seen a contemporary philosopher, Lecomte du Nouy, rise to great heights because he expressed this idea so well in his very popular book, "Human Destiny". He pointed out that man is fast becoming an economic factor rather than a moral being and a moral revolution must take place if the world is to survive. Libraries must keep pace with such ideas, and help bring about this moral revolution.

With the above introduction, the Bay City Public Library presents its 79th annual report. An attractive booklet bound in a bright cover, it is arranged for easy, pleasant reading. The highlights of the year's activities are briefly outlined and plans for the future are considered. Announcement is made of a Library survey which is soon to be carried out with Mr. Cecil McHale and Mr. Richard Hurley of the University of Michigan Dept. of Library Science, directing the work.

The survey is expected to be a "careful critical and factual analysis of library conditions and available library resources of the entire community including school facilities."

The usual library statistics are compiled at the end of the report. Miss Ann Ballou is librarian.

## GRAND RAPIDS

Miss Eleanor S. Burgess, formerly children's librarian at Scranton, Pa., has been appointed to succeed Mrs. Bernice Gantt as Chief of the Juvenile Department of the Grand Rapids Public Library.

Miss Burgess, a native of Massachusetts, is a graduate of Wheaton College, Norton, Mass. Her library training was taken in the University of Wisconsin graduate department.

Her first library position was as assistant in the boys' and girls' department in the Providence, R.I., Public Library. From there she went to a similar position in Glen Ellyn, Ill., and then Lyndhurst, N.J. Public Library where she was children's librarian until 1940.

October 1948

During the war, Miss Burgess took up service as a Girl Scout executive and served in that capacity in Kalamazoo, Portland, Me., and in Danbury, Conn. After the war she returned to library work.

## JACKSON

The Jackson County Service Dads Club has established a trust fund for the purpose of providing earnings out of which books on technical subjects and World War II historical matter may be provided in a section of the Public Library as a memorial to the service men of Jackson County.

Mr. Hunt, a city commissioner and a service dad who lost his two sons in the war, was named permanent chairman. The librarian of the Jackson Public Library and of the Jackson County Library are permanent members of the committee.

Three thousand dollars has been raised and plans are under way to expand the trust fund to fifteen thousand dollars. The Service Dads Club has already provided two hundred dollars which has been spent on technical books for the Jackson Public Library.

*Gaylord*

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## A. L. A. CONFERENCE NOTES

The sixty-seventh annual conference of the American Library Association held in Atlantic City, showed a registration of 3,752 persons.

### NEWBERY AND CALDECOTT AWARD WINNERS

The Newbery and Caldecott Awards were presented on June 15. William Pene du Bois received the John Newbery Award for having written the most distinguished book published during the preceding year for boys and girls, "Twenty-One Balloons". Roger Duvoisin received the Randolph Caldecott Award for illustrating the most distinguished picture book, "White Snow, Bright Snow", published during the same year. Virginia Chase, in a recent article on these awards stated, "It is a joy to write about these books, for there is so much fun, sense and nonsense, beauty and humanness to be found in each."

### JOHN COTTON DANA PUBLICITY AWARD

Michigan again takes pride in having one of its libraries recognized for its work in the field of Publicity. Sponsored by the WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN and the A.L.A. Public Relations Committee, the awards were presented at the Third General Session. The Grand Rapids Public Library received the John Cotton Dana Publicity Award for outstanding publicity in 1947, among public libraries in communities with population of 100,000 to 200,000.

### WAYNE COUNTY READING PROJECT

A concentrated effort to promote children's reading during the summer was made by the Wayne County Library. The campaign started with the distribution of thousands of mimeographed reading lists during the last week of school. To focus the value of summer reading a postal was provided for teachers to fill in and mail to the parents of children who were behind in their school work. Worded so as to cast no reflections on the child, it read:

Reading during the summer vacation would be a great help to \_\_\_\_\_ in his her school work. If you take him her to the \_\_\_\_\_ Library

he she can get a library card and borrow books free of charge.

Over 1,000 postals were distributed. A spot-check with one school principal revealed a 50 per cent response in the checking of his mailing list. Bringing their child to the library, some parents first found the library for themselves.

Follow-up publicity in the local weeklies used in mid-July brought still more response as it reminded parents that through summer reading "children will retain reading abilities which they developed during the school year."

### PRESIDENTS AND EDITORS ROUND TABLE

The Presidents and Editors Round Table held an open meeting on Wednesday, June 16, with Russell Munn, chairman, presiding. About 40 state library association presidents and bulletin editors were present. The implementation of the national plans for libraries was the topic of the meeting and the Committee on the Implementation of the National Plans shared in the preparation of the program.

Francis St. John, chairman of the Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career, reported briefly on the progress of that committee. Recognizing the importance of recruiting at the state level, the committee has enlarged its membership to include representatives from state associations. Mr. St. John urged that state associations send reports of their recruiting activities to the committee which will act as a clearing house for information about the recruiting programs of various groups. Reports may be sent directly to Mr. St. John at room 4235 Munitions Building, Washington, D.C.

Edward A. Chapman, chairman of the Committee on the Implementation of the National Plans, talked on the committee's proposals for the utilization of the plans in federal, state and local planning for all types of libraries.

## MUSKEGON

Mr. Clifford B. Wightman, librarian of the Lancaster, Pa. library has been named to succeed Librarian C. Tefft Hewitt of the Hackley Public library who retired at the end of June.

A graduate of Mt. Pleasant High school in 1924, Mr. Wightman obtained a Life Certificate in 1926 at the Central Michigan College of Education, his A.B. in Education degree at the University of Michigan in 1929, a B.S. in L.S. there in 1930 and a Masters degree in Library Science four years later in Ann Arbor. He did advanced work in the Graduate Library school of the University of Chicago in the summer of 1941.

Mr. Wightman taught in the public schools of Crosswell, assisted in the graduate reading room at the University of Michigan and was put in charge of the Chemical Engineering library there for four years. Mr. Wightman became reference librarian and was instructor of library science at Colorado State College of Education, Greeley, Colo., from 1934 to 1938. He was associate librarian at the Grand Rapids Public Library for three years prior to going to Lancaster. The Lancaster library which he headed since 1941 serves that city of 60,000 population and also the county and operates bookmobiles in rural sections.

Mr. Wightman is a member of the A.L.A., served the Pennsylvania Library association as treasurer three years and is now chairman of the Public Library association. He was a member of the legislative committee and chairman of the local section of the Michigan Library Association and was general chairman for the state convention of M.L.A. held in Grand Rapids.

## SURVEY OF LIBRARY PERSONNEL

A study of salaries and working conditions of library personnel will be made in November 1948, by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with the A.L.A. Board on Personnel Administration. The study will be made by mail questionnaire to be answered by full-time professional and non-professional personnel in libraries of all types and sizes. The questionnaires will of necessity be distributed to libraries as no set staff lists exist. Libraries from each state, the District of Columbia, and Hawaii will be selected according to the bureau's regular sampling methods.

—ALA Bulletin  
Sept. 1, 1948

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## LAURENCE W. SMITH

Mr. Laurence W. Smith, President of the Grand Rapids Board of Library Commissioners, died August 29 after an illness of six weeks. Death was caused by a heart malady. He was 67 years old.

An attorney and civic leader, Mr. Smith was active in public library affairs for many years. He had been a member of the Board of Library Commissioners for 17 years and served as president for the past 10 years. A past president of the Grand Rapids Bar association and formerly head of the Association of Commerce he was, at the time of his death, a trustee of Butterworth hospital.

A native of Ionia, Mr. Smith was the son of the late Circuit Judge Vernor Smith of that city. He was a partner in several law firms in Grand Rapids during his 33 years of legal practice and had been associated with his son Laurence D. Smith since January of this year in the partnership of Smith and Smith.

Mr. Smith was widely known for his congeniality and ready wit and was much sought after as a toastmaster for public gatherings.

Statewide as well as local library circles have suffered a serious loss in the passing of so forward-looking a citizen as Mr. Smith.

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### 'AND SO CHILDREN, ONCE UPON A TIME!

East Lansing children crowd around three members of the Michigan State College speech department storytelling class on the lawn of the East Lansing city library. Mrs. Louis Irvin, Mrs. Myrtle Clark and Miss Dorothy Yoho, left to right, are one of 13 groups of students of Mrs. Moiree Compere, in the background, assistant professor of speech at the college.

Alma Huggins, librarian, reports that The Story Hour started last summer when it was held out doors on the library lawn. During the winter and when the weather was inclement the group gathers indoors. The children range in age from five to ten years and the attendance numbers from 35 to 50 listeners.

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## PROJECTS TO HELP YOUR LIBRARY

Perhaps your patrons and good library users have always asked you what your library needs are, what can be done to help the library.

For years, interested groups of citizens throughout the state have made real and permanent contributions to libraries.

Last winter when the Michigan Library Association Public Relations Committee met, we wondered what our committee could do to help libraries in their relations with the people they serve.

The committee decided that a folder filled with suggestions of how organizations and individuals have helped libraries might be useful. We looked over the whole state for suggestions. We wrote to librarians for further information. We tried to include examples of gifts small and large to libraries of various sizes in communities throughout the state.

The folder entitled "Project Suggestions to Help Your Library," is aimed to interest organizations. The committee hopes that the Michigan Library Association members will undertake to interest statewide organizations. We have had many copies printed so that the folder may be presented at state meetings or to state planning committees who are lining up yearly programs for statewide organizations.

The committee also had in mind that the local librarian would want to use this folder with local organizations.

Several thousand copies of this folder are ready for use. We need your help in getting them to the friends of your library right away. How many may we send you? Perhaps you would like to send in the names of the presidents of the various organizations in your community and the numbers of folders they would like. Write to Miss Clover Flanders, 80 W. Warren Avenue, Detroit 1, Michigan, and tell her what your exact needs are.

The Public Relations Committee of the Michigan Library Association hopes that the interest in projects to help the library will lead many organizations to study local libraries and library needs. In writing Miss Flanders, please add your suggestions for follow up folders or other kinds of help that a public relations committee could give.

The Public Relations Committee is ready to serve. How can we help your library?

Clover Flanders, Chairman,  
Public Relations Committee

October 1948

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## FILM NEWS

Created to instruct and delight both young and old, "Three Fox Fables", a new ten-minute 16mm sound motion picture has been produced by Encyclopaedia Britannica Films to bring to life the immortal stories of Aesop.

Based on the 3,000-year-old fables of the Greek slave and his French interpreter, La Fontaine, the Fox is shown in his encounters with a crow and a piece of cheese, a stork, and the proverbial bunch of grapes.

The remarkable live animal photography is the result of more than a year's patient work by Lynwood Chace.

Like its predecessor, "The Hare and the Tortoise", the new film belongs to the series of "Photo Fables" which EBFilms inaugurated in 1947. According to C. Scott Fletcher, president of the films company, the immediate and wide acceptance of "The Hare and the Tortoise" indicates a need for more real life pictures on this portion of the world's literary heritage. The subjects of the films will be as timeless as the fables themselves have been, Fletcher said.

Collaborator for the film was Grace Emily Storm, M.A., assistant professor of education at the University of Chicago, where her major interests are directed towards training teachers to work with children.

In the first fable in "Three Fox Fables", the fox encounters several animals of the woods all eating their favorite foods. In an attempt to satisfy his own appetite, he tries in vain to reach a large bunch of grapes that hang just out of his reach. When he realizes that he cannot get them, the fox consoles himself with the thought that they are probably sour grapes anyway.

The next day the fox, still hungry, spies a crow in a tree eating a big piece of cheese. He schemes to take the cheese away from the crow, and after flattering the crow into thinking himself quite a figure of beauty, suggests that the crow sing for him. As the crow opens his mouth to sing, the cheese drops to the ground. The fox picks it up and sneeringly tells the crow, "He who falls for flattery is a fool".

"Three Fox Fables" is a 16mm black and white sound film, produced principally for use in the elementary grades. It is obtainable for purchase at \$45, a print from Encyclopaedia Britannica Films Inc., Wilmette, Illinois.

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*Use Your Library*, a 77-frame filmstrip by E. Ben Evans, and a realistic presentation of what the library offers, is being released by the American Library Association in October. It is aimed at junior and senior high school pupils, and shows how to find books, brief facts, magazine articles and pamphlets. Its purpose, according to the producers, is to develop a favorable attitude toward the library on the part of the students as well as to how to use it. The filmstrip can be used by librarians or teachers without a manual or study guide. Mr. Evans, who is responsible for the strip is supervisor of library service in the Kern County Union High School District, Bakersfield, California.

The Educational Film Library Association, 1600 Broadway, Suite 1000, New York City 19, is now handling the distribution of films produced by educational organizations. Available films in black and white which are produced by Pennsylvania State College are as follows:

"Baby Care: Feeding", 23 min., \$65.

"Construction of a Light Airplane", 28 min., \$65.

"Drafting Tips", 28 min., \$65.

The E. F. L. A. has published a series of booklets on various aspects of audio-visual education.

### WORKING WITH A LEGISLATURE

To help librarians and library trustees who are working on legislative campaigns, the American Library Association has announced for November 5 publication *Working with a Legislature*, prepared by Beatrice Sawyer Rossell. The purpose of the pamphlet, according to the publishers, is to provide practical advice for librarians and layman who, with a bill well drafted, face the responsibility of steering it through the legislature.

*Working with a Legislature* tells how to go about securing the passage of a good will bill, what to do, and what not to do in planning and carrying out a campaign.

Mrs. Rossell, whose personal experience in connection with library legislation covers a period of more than ten years in Illinois, has also drawn upon the experience of leaders in many other states in setting forth basic principles and procedures that are widely applicable. Rossell, Beatrice Sawyer. *Working with a Legislature*. American Library Association, Chicago, 1948. \$1.90.

*The Michigan Librarian*





# JUNIORS'

## HIGH CHAIR

By  
**De Lyle Runge**

### Reports from Round the State

**Ingham County:** Dorothy Rozek reports that Pat Bartlett of the Ingham County Library staff is attending summer school at Michigan State College. (Does the subject include a dancing course, Pat?)

**Lansing and East Lansing:** Marion L. McConnell writes . . . "I am afraid there is not much news. You see, we had our last meeting, a picnic at Potter Park in Lansing, last May and then suspended activities until after the summer is over. Our next meeting will be some time in September, but no real plans for it have been made as yet, and the date is still uncertain.

"If you are at all interested in personal news, I can give you a little of that. Two of our members attended summer school this summer. Doris Sutherland went to the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Elizabeth Rogers to Western Reserve. They are from the Lansing Public Library and work in school libraries.

"Keith Knight, assistant in the reference department at the Michigan State College Library is being married September 10 to Mary Katherine Good, a graduate student at the college.

**Detroit:** Forrest H. Alter sends us a very pleasant letter bringing us a brief resume of activities in Detroit . . . "We have had a rejuvenated group of Juniors since Dorothy Cross took over as chairman and have had a very active year. A great deal of this activity is due to the efforts of the Program Committee under the chairmanship of Frances Geddes.

"On March 16, we saw two films from the collection of the Audio-Visual Department of the Detroit Public Library. These were

'Psychiatry in Action' and 'It's All Yours.' At this meeting, Evelyn Gutowske, the State Juniors' Chairman of the committee working on the Directory of Michigan Librarians, told us about the plans of that committee. Beginning March 31 and continuing almost weekly for several months, groups of the Detroit Juniors met to work on the Directory.

"On April 16, we met for dinner and a musical program presented by four of our members at the Central YWCA. On May 2, many of our group made the trip to the State Rally at Grand Rapids.

"On June 2, after a very interesting Chinese dinner at the Oriental Gardens, we went to the Cass Theater for a performance of 'The Winslow Boy.' On July 25, we had a picnic at the home of Shirley Brabant and then attended a performance of 'Dear Ruth' at Will-O-Way, a summer theater in Bloomfield Hills. On August 25, we took a boat ride down the Detroit River to Bob-Lo Island."

**Grand Rapids:** Summer activities here included a Juniors' picnic in July at the home of Claxton Helms. The occasion informally put the stamp of approval on the new terrace and outdoor grill that Clax has finished.

June Wells supervised the final work done by the Grand Rapids Group on the directory project—proofreading. Every member took a crack at a few galley proofs and the job was finished in quick time.

### A Steal from Alta Parks' "Behind the Stacks"

Claire Gale has decided that the situation in China is just one of those things, so why not go now? She has made arrangements to become the librarian of the Shanghai American School for a year.. The adventure should be worth something and will be a slight change from the adventure provided by bookmobile accidents. She left August 28.

Peg Murray Wylie's thesis goes round and round. It's really finished now, this Survey on Library Users, and is doing its best to reach all the participating County Libraries before the fall meeting.



by Alta Parks

Sorry, folks, but we got our dates mixed. (We've done it before and we probably will again.) This is the last column for this columnist, but not for the column. (How do you like that repetition?)

Congratulations to Muskegon County which has been chosen by the Department of Librarianship of Western Michigan College. Kalamazoo, as the library with which senior students will do field work in county libraries. Ann Hart of Fremont will be the first student. She began work September 7. Alice Billington, a June graduate of Western, began her duties August 1 as supervisor of Muskegon Heights Branch Library and School Library Consultant for the consolidated schools of the county.

Plug! They asked for it, so — Have you seen the new folder the Public Relations Committee dreamed up? It really is good, and should find use in most communities, for it has ideas of what projects have been promoted for the library in all kinds and sizes of libraries.

We were reliably informed that Clover Flanders had retired, but we're sure it was only for a vacation. Can you imagine Clover retiring! Anyway, she's been to Coldwater and has promised to paint at least one chair. Painting, by the way, is supposed to be good therapy for tired librarians.

New staff members at Michigan State Library include Mrs. Fannie Shepherd Noonan of Warsaw, New York. You'll have to see her about State Aid now. Fannie was at one time on the Wayne County staff, so many of you will remember her. Helen Kramer is taking the position of Consultant for the Upper Peninsula. Zona Williams is on leave of absence for a year to do graduate work in Library Science at the University of Chicago. Ethel Boot (pronounced *boat*) is from Holland, Michigan and is the new assistant in the Traveling Libraries Division. Ethel once lived in China.

Kent County Library furnished a temporary library of children's science books at Camp Vining for the two week institute of 44 rural Kent County teachers, August 9-20. Dr. Edwin B. Steen, biology instructor at Western was the director.

Sterling and Shelby Townships in Macomb County have made appropriations to the County Library, so the bookmobile will serve 1200 more rural students.

The Planning Committee had a good time playing around with 2/3 of a librarian in compiling their statistics for the fall meeting. Decided some wag would wonder where the other 1/3 was, so changed it to two for every three.

Bill Quinley visited Grand Rapids Public last spring and apparently liked what he saw, for he's joining the staff as Readers Advisor after Labor Day.

We think this a recommended way to diet, as practiced by Ingham's young high school helper, who is somewhat on the plump side. Alice had been talking about her diet.

Miss Kellenberger: But, Alice, I've seen you eating candy bars and ice cream cones.

Alice: Oh — that's between meals.

*Land of Liberty* was the film shown at Grand Rapids Public when the Freedom Train visited there.

Henry Reichald, president of Detroit Symphony Orchestra, presented Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, with 3 copies of Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor. The album features Claudio Arrau at the piano and is one of the few recordings of the Detroit Symphony. He also presented the library with a book of poems by J. Dorsey Collaghan. We also noted from the local paper that Baldwin now has one ceiling projector and soon is to have another — from the Lions, and already has collected 80-some films.

*The Michigan Librarian*

Lansing Public Library will have several new additions on its staff when September rolls around. There's Mrs. Marjorie Brody Michael, head cataloger, from the Detroit Public Library; Hazel Sheiber, as reference assistant, from Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. Lela Arnell, Lansing; Mrs. Marie Hardy, Fremont; as school librarians; Mrs. Charlotte Jones as hospital librarian.

Royal Oak's Soroptomist Club paid all expenses of Miss Mildred Walker to Western Reserve Library School this summer. Miss Walker has had charge of a township branch which has 10,000 negro families in the area. From July 1, 1947 to June 1, 1948 the branch circulated 17,714 books, of which 14,882 were used by children. The Branch was started with the help of the Royal Oak Public Library, the State Aid fund, and the State Traveling Library collection.

Ruth Mingling, who hails from Ohio, has joined the staff of the Kent County Library. Ruth received her B.S. in L.S. from Western Reserve and has done county library work in Klamath Falls, Oregon and in Lapeer County.

Catherine Patterson of Geneva, Ohio has been appointed senior library consultant in Royal Oak. She is a graduate of Muskingom College and the School of Library Science at Western Reserve.

Roger Schwenn, reference librarian at Ann Arbor P.L., served as librarian during the 5th annual Leadership Training Institute of Michigan C.I.O. Council at its summer camp at Port Huron in August.

Ingham County Library had its own freedom train. Dorothy Rozek, in charge of exhibits, borrowed a quite elegant children's train from one of the local hardware stores and made it a point of attraction for our copies of The Declaration of Independence and the United Nations Charter.

We don't know all the details, but we know everyone in Michigan is happy to have Walter Kaiser back at Wayne County as of July 6.

Did you all know that Anne Farrington, formerly with Wayne County and Van Buren County, accepted the position of supervisor of rural library extension at Wisconsin last spring? Nope, Anne isn't in Maryland anymore.

October 1948

This is the sort of thing we are very proud to announce — Manistee County (Lucille Dahlvig, Librarian) has moved into its new quarters as of July 14 — more space, more shelves, more everything. On the same day they received word that the new bookmobile, a 3/4 ton Chevrolet had arrived. It has all-aluminum body made by Curbside near Buffalo, N.Y., and is painted medium green with white lettering offset with dark green. Welcome to the growing clan of bookmobilers, Lucille.

Louise Kellenberger, bookmobile librarian for Ingham County Library, attended a two-week workshop on County Libraries at the University of Denver.

Dr. Warner G. Rice, director of the University of Michigan's general library, stopped at Ingham County Library on his way to the University's library at Interlochen. The University has a collection of old text books, and Ingham County had been unintentionally collecting them, so Dr. Rice picked out a few. Now we can dispose of the remainder with a clear conscience.

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We couldn't help but be amused the other day when making out some overdue notices for one of our absent staff members. Mr. and Mrs. together had about 11 books and pamphlets overdue for at least two weeks. The last item on the list was — *Planning use of the family dollar*. — Bet they need it, too!

The Genessee County Library has in the past two months experienced several upheavals. First occurred dramatically when Clair Gale, assistant librarian, became involved in a hair-breadth accident while on the summer bookmobile run. The truck was parked beside a teacher's car in front of Swartz Creek's high school when a jeep driven by an elderly man got out of control, rammed into the car and sent it crashing into the right fender of the bookmobile. Miss Gale was standing at the rear of the bookmobile and escaped, by a few feet, being caught between car and truck. It was not until she had opened the jeep door and spoken to the injured driver, that she allowed a weakness in the knees to be felt momentarily. (Claire adds that it wasn't quite such a bang-up job as Maud Grill's tussle with a train, but one which made using the Miss Olmstead's car as a bookmobile for a week most inconvenient.)

Genessee County's headquarters have been newly painted a light green, and the clerical staff think it entirely to the good, even if their memories of moving all the books from both office and coatroom are still fresh.

There is a little girl in Plymouth who wants a soft book. Says she: "You know, not a hard book because I don't know hard words — you know, a soft book I can read."

Note from Wayne County Library Bulletin — "In her quiet and unassuming way Miss Charlotte Squires plans to retire on June 26."

New decorating and equipment have made the back of the Melvindale branch of Wayne a children's delight. Merry-go-round draperies, a special merry-go-round lamp, juvenile size overstuffed furniture, and suitable wall-papers have been utilized to transform the room into a wide departure from the prosaic.

It's a vicarious sort of thing, but several librarians from Wayne County are swimming under glass 24 hours a day. They each contributed to the Juvenile Detention Home goldfish fund, picking their own name for their fish.

Summer activities of the St. Clair County Library have been centered around the village reading clubs. No country road is too long for the hundreds of boys and girls who come to the bookmobile in the areas surrounding Capac, Marysville, Sparlingville, and Memphis for a fullmorning of reading fun. Jovial clowns on gay book-mark cards are targets this year for recording the number of books read. As each bright polka-dot is added to the clown's suit, the children become more eager to dress him up. When ten books have been read, the child is given a circus balloon, and his name is lettered on a giant balloon-man poster. Some of the children tell about their favorite book-of-the-week, others listen to phonograph records of Snow White, Paul Bunyan, Robin Hood, Mother Goose, Aladdin, tales of vacation trips, animal pets, the week's adventure, and anything that makes up a child's world, are part of the informality of these weekly visits. Adults as well as children attended these sessions, where they can find reading material of their choice inside the spacious bookmobile.

Bernice Gustin, librarian at Hartford, in Van Buren County, reports an interesting item. It seems one of the Juniors came into the library with the oft-heard request, "Term paper due in less than a week! Have you a biography or autobiography that is easy reading and not too long?" Bernice looked among the books and brought to the desk, *Autobiography of a Clown* by Isaac Maccassen. She opened the front of the book and found pasted in it an excerpt from a letter by Rex Chamberlain who served in World War I. It was to his people (Mrs. Elinor Chamberlain is now a library trustee), and read as follows:

Somewhere in France 1918

Dear folks: Was at library yesterday after some French books and ran across this book of Jules Turnour. I made him let me have this and gave him *Over the Top* for it.

Rex Chamberlain

Strange as it seems, Jules Turnour was a former Hartford resident who traveled as a clown in Ringling Brothers Circus for many years. Strange to find the book in a French library, and stranger still that Rex Chamberlain who had played with the Turnour children should find it.

*The Michigan Librarian*

Branch County Library's complete staff visited the State Library in August and stopped off at Ingham County to see a brother bookmobile. We had a repercussion on that from a local Mason resident who saw both grey trucks standing in the drive and said, "Well, I see you have two bookmobiles now." We replied, "If you'd looked a little closer you'd have noticed that one said *Branch County Library*." Good advertising, anyway.

Found this in Branch County's monthly bulletin, and think it worth repeating. It's called Good Business and is by Eddie Guest. "If I possessed a shop or store, I'd drive the grouches off my floor! I'd never let some gloomy guy offend the folks who come to buy; I'd never keep a boy or clerk, with mental toothache at his work, nor let anyone who draws my pay, drive customers of mine away. I'd treat the man who takes my time and spends a nickle or a dime with courtesy, and make him feel that I was pleased to close the deal, because tomorrow, who can tell? He may want stuff I have to sell, and in that case, then glad he'll be to spend his dollars all with me. The reason people pass one door to patronize another store, is not because the busier place has better silks or gloves or lace, Or special prices, but it lies In pleasant words and smiling eyes; The only difference, I believe, Is in the treatment folks receive!"

DeLyle Runge wondered how we gathered our items. This is one way! At a recent Planning Committee meeting, we were asking each other for humorous things that had happened. We weren't getting very far, when DeLyle suggested maybe we could use the fact that one of the younger members of their staff had fallen down the steps when she lost her heel. We replied that we didn't think that that would do, unless there was an eligible male around to pick her up. There was a pause, but not long, and DeLyle answered, quite definitely, "There wasn't. I picked her up, and I'm not eligible.

Jean Trantanella, children's librarian at Escanaba for the past five years, was married August 7 to Gordon Bebeau. The Bebeaus are planning to live in Marquette until Gordon completes his studies at the Northern Michigan College next year.

We sent Bob Orr, Branch County Librarian, a nice blank postcard. Back came a note from Bob — "Enclosed postal from you? It's not very talkative."

October 1948

## VETERANS IN TRAINING

A total of 324 World War II veterans are training in library work under the G.I. Bill, a Veterans Administration survey disclosed.

Of the total, 239 are taking courses in library science in colleges and universities, and 85 are training on-the-job in public and private libraries as library assistants and attendants.

The survey lists occupation fields of some 2,000,000 veterans studying in schools and colleges, and 546,000 training on-the-job on December 1, 1947.

Veterans are eligible for education and training under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (G.I. Bill) if they served in the armed forces between September 16, 1940, and July 25, 1947; had 90 days or more of service; and were released under conditions other than dishonorable.

The 90-day minimum service requirement is waived in the case of veterans released because of service-connected disabilities.

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## LIBRARY LITERATURE

A 1946-48 cumulation of *Library Literature*, the annotated index to current books, pamphlets and periodical literature which is published by the H. W. Wilson Company, is planned for the spring of 1949. It is the aim of this publication to index all significant and appropriate literature. Some of this material is easy to obtain through customary bibliographic channels; other items are almost impossible to obtain without the active cooperation of the issuing agencies.

This request is directed to all libraries and library agencies which issue publications either in printed or near-print forms. If your publications for 1946 to date have not been indexed in the annual volumes of *Library Literature*, the editor will be glad to receive them. Most useful to other libraries are your surveys, reports, library histories, building brochures, and the like. In general, subject bibliographies (i.e. non-library science subjects) sponsored by libraries and library agencies are not indexed, since these fields are covered by the *Bibliographic Index*.

By sending copies of your material to *Library Literature* you will be making a contribution to our professional bibliography which will be useful to librarians the world around. Address your material to Dorothy Ethlyn Cole, Editor, *Library Literature*, H. W. Wilson Company, 950 University Avenue, New York 52, N.Y.

## LIBRARY DEMONSTRATION BILL TO BE REINTRODUCED

The Library Demonstration Bill, which failed to receive House approval in the past session of Congress, will be introduced in its present form in the 81st Congress, according to Paul Howard, Director of the ALA National Relations Office.

"Representatives of 22 ALA State Federal Relations Committees, meeting at the ALA conference in Atlantic City, June 18, unanimously agreed to reintroduce the bill and conduct another campaign for it," Mr. Howard said. "The members stated that, although the bill did not pass, the publicity for it had been helpful to libraries everywhere."

Members at the conference meeting outlined strategy for the new campaign and discussed publicity pieces to be used.

## YOUR LIBRARY

Soliman, an Ottoman ruler, called the magnificent, and ruling in the part of the sixteenth century, was advised by his priests and politicians, to destroy all Christian and Jewish inhabitants in his dominion.

Looking through a window into his garden, (when they were trying again to persuade him), he said, "Look at the different varieties of flowers in that garden. Why should I uproot them all but one kind? As there is room for a great variety of flowers in my garden, there also will be room for different religious persuasion!"

How true this also is with one's library.

There are flowers and weeds, and flower-weeds in every garden! There are little minds, great minds and greater minds upon the library shelves. Like as the eye is only an instrument through which speaketh the soul, so is the cover of a book to the spirit which dwelleth within. Some covers are the masterpieces of an artisan's hand, through which his spirit speaks; others are dressed in a very plain garb, put around them at birth, looking more devastated when the years go by, but the spirit of the book does not die, whether its cover is plain or bejeweled.

A master-mind might be enclosed in diamond, gold, hammered silver, plain cloth or even a paper cover! But it does not increase or decrease the worth of him or her who speaks. Upon the shelves of the real library there is room for all.

Klaas Tol

The Library Demonstration Bill was unanimously approved by the Senate February 26, 1948. The following day it was reported favorably by the House Subcommittee on Education. For final passage the bill lacked only to be reported out by the full Committee on Education and Labor and voted on in the House.

Commenting on the lack of discouragement on the part of librarians who had worked so hard for the bill's passage, Mr. Howard said, "It is extremely gratifying that on the very eve of adjournment of Congress, leaving the Library Demonstration Bill a dead issue, librarians could discuss a new campaign with enthusiasm."

*The Michigan Librarian*

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